



THE VETERANS VOICE

AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

Meuli • Kelean • Kramer • Dannenberg

12 East Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

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Meetings 7:30 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursday's

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www.amlegionpost77.org

Vietnam Veterans Day Banquet



Almost three years ago, Governor Jim Doyle signed legislation to designate March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day in Wisconsin. The governor is required by this law to request that citizens of Wisconsin remember the accomplishments of Vietnam veterans and thank them for their service.

To fulfill the governor's proclamation, many communities in Wisconsin will hold events to honor Vietnam War and Era veterans. In the Eau Claire area, Thuy Smith, founder and president of Thuy Smith International Outreach, has scheduled the third annual Vietnam Veterans Day banquet for Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the Eagles Club in the Village of Lake Hallie.

A keynote speaker is planned to recognize all veterans of the Vietnam Era for their service. In addition, this year the event has expanded to include space for several county veteran service officers to answer benefit questions, veterans service organizations to offer information on membership and personal memorabilia to be displayed by banquet attendees. The display area is planned to be open to the general public prior to the banquet.

For more information on this event and banquet registration please visit <http://www.thuysmithinternationaloutreach.org/vietnam-veterans-day-banquet.html> or call (715) 861-3081 or (715) 404-8500.



2012 Poppy Drive

Auxiliary Unit 77 has scheduled the 2012 Poppy drive for Thursday, April 19th through Saturday, April 21st. We are hoping for a few nice spring days to seek donations for the Post and Auxiliary's Veterans Relief Funds.

Look for Post and Auxiliary members at local businesses and please make

a generous donation. Then, wear your Poppy proudly to show your support for needy veterans.

We can also use more members to fill 4-hour shifts to distribute Poppies. It's easy work since the Poppies sell themselves. All you really need to do is say thank you. In addition, you may see many friends as you work your shift and you can feel good about volunteering for a worthy cause. Many experts agree that those who volunteer for such activities live longer and feel better about themselves. Contact the Jansky's at (715) 723-0408 for more information or to sign up to work.

Guest Speaker Sessions Continue

At the second meeting in January, Dick Herbert, Director of the Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, addressed both Auxiliary and Post members after our regular meetings.

Dick has worked for the city since 1984 and gave a presentation on some of the parks in Chippewa Falls. He concentrated on Irvine and Marshall Parks and the zoo. One thing he pointed out is that Christmas Village was a big hit again this year and will continue to be an attraction in the future. However, there needs to be more private funding to cover expenses such as electricity to offset city expenses.

Work will continue to improve the zoo and to change out some animals, such as the deer, to help keep annual costs within the budget.

After our March 15th meeting, we will have the opportunity to listen to Open Door Clinic Coordinator Beth Biegging, M.D. Their web site states, "The Open Door Clinic was established to provide basic health care services to Chippewa County residents who are without a health care alternative." The clinic operates on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 130 W. Central St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

Over the last two years, Post 77 has donated a total of \$1,000.00 toward the operation of the clinic and supports its mission.

Veterans Day 2011

Post members, who are also members of the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council, participated in ceremonies at four elementary schools, the courthouse veterans memorial monument, the Chippewa Manor and McDonell Central Catholic High School. Except for the high school, most of the programs were less than 30 minutes long and included a short speech, flag raising, Pledge of Allegiance, three rifle volleys and taps.

At McDonell High School, our keynote speaker was Col. Peter J. Cochrane, M.D., US Army Reserve Medical Corps, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. One of Dr. Cochrane's sons, Chris, who is a McDonell graduate, is currently serving with the US Army in Afghanistan. This made Dr. Cochrane's remarks even more poignant. The McDonell band and chorus also did a great job. The events were a huge success with good attendance and respect by all students.

Annual Christmas Party

On December 11, 2011, the Post held its annual Christmas Party at the Eagles Club. Approximately 82 people attended the party and we enjoyed plenty of old fashioned camaraderie. We also had fun with a raffle where we awarded dozens of prizes donated by local merchants.

The facility and food were excellent so we will return there for other events when our hall is too small.



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LEGION POST 77 - EVENTS CALENDAR 2012

Feb 16	Regular Post & Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Luncheon Served After Meeting
Mar 01	Regular Post Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Mar 01-03	Candy Bar Sale to Benefit Post 77 Baseball
Mar 15	Regular Post & Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker & Luncheon Served After Meeting
Mar 18	Birthday Party – See Separate Flyer
Apr 05	Regular Post Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Apr 19	Regular Post & Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Luncheon Served After Meeting
Apr 19-21	Annual Poppy Distribution at Area Businesses
May 03	Regular Post Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
May 17	Regular Post & Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Luncheon Served After Meeting
May 26	Flag Placement – 8:30 a.m. Forest Hill Cemetery

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POST 77 OFFICERS 2011-2012

Commander
David Hedrington
First Vice Cmdr
Robert Boettcher
Second Vice Cmdr
Vern Normand
Chaplain
Ronald Pinter
Adjutant
Leroy Jansky
Finance Officer
Bernard Willi

Commander's Corner

Welcome to the Commanders Corner.

Another new year is here and we are already into the second month.

Our annual Candy Bar Sale will be March 1st thru March 3rd. The money made from this sale helps support the American Legion Post 77 baseball team. Look for us at Gordy's and Mega.

On March 18th the Legion will hold its Birthday Party at the Eagles Club in Hallie (see separate flyer). It is open to Legion members and their guests. In April, from the 19th thru the 21st, we will be selling Poppies at various locations in Chippewa Falls.

We are always looking for new members to join and current members to attend our meetings. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, along with the Ladies Auxiliary on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

David D. Hedrington
American Legion Post 77 Commander

Membership Dues

If you are not paid for 2012, dues are \$28.00 and should be submitted now. You can send dues to PO Box 241, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

Members can also pay online. You just need your ID number and a credit card. Go to <http://wilegion.org> and click on the **Renew Online** button. Thanks for helping us maintain 100% retention.

THE FINAL BUGLE
Deceased Members Since November 1, 2011

Please remember these members in your prayers.

† Edward Benson, US Army, WWII †
† Irwin Beranek, US Army, WWII †
† Richard Frazier, US Army, WWII †
† Pearl Michel, US Navy, WWII †

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Auxiliary Unit 77 2011-2012 Officers

President: Ardith McIlquham
Secretary: Alice Normand
Treasurer: Patty Jansky
Chaplain: Janet Hager